

OK

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

OEXA 83-0047/A - *del: 83-0625*

10 FEB 1983

Honorable Larry P. McDonald
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. McDonald:

Thank you for your letter of 27 January concerning the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II, and on the material presented by Mr. Marvin Kalb on the NBC Television News Tuesday, 25 January.

As you know, it is the general policy of this Agency neither to confirm nor deny allegations appearing in any of the media. However, because of the worldwide interest and importance of the subject of the attempted assassination of the Pope, I wish to take exception to the numerous newspaper articles and television commentaries that allege a conspiracy at the highest levels of our Government to suppress the KGB's involvement in this matter. It is always regrettable when hearsay and innuendo are presented as fact.

We unequivocally deny the allegations made by Mr. Kalb that the CIA is involved in "the effort to prevent newsmen and the Italian Government from a thorough investigation into the KGB connection." The President and other senior U.S. Government officials have consistently stated that this issue is an internal matter of the Italian Government, and it would be inappropriate for the U.S. Government, or the Central Intelligence Agency, to interfere any way. The Agency does, of course, provide appropriate officials of the U.S. Government any intelligence in its possession relevant to this matter.

We have also kept both the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence informed on any information we have received on this matter.

I hope this alleviates your concerns and I appreciate your giving me the opportunity to clarify the Agency's position on a matter of such importance.

Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence



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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**Routing Slip**

TO:

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| 3 | EXDIR | | X | | |
| 4 | D/ICS | | | | |
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| 7 | DDO | | X | | |
| 8 | DDS&T | | | | |
| 9 | Chm/NIC | | | | |
| 10 | GC | | | | |
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SUSPENSE

4 February

Date

Remarks:

Please prepare reply for DCI's signature.

3637 (10-81)

31 January 1983

Date

STAT

LARRY P. McDONALD
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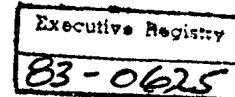
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 27, 1983

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The Honorable
William J. Casey, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Director Casey:

As you know, evidence continues to mount that the Soviet KGB was behind the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul.

The latest information on this shocking affair was presented by NBC Television News Tuesday night, January 25th, 1983, in a report narrated by correspondent Marvin Kalb. The initial presentation of "The Man Who Shot the Pope" ran last year and the updated version on January 25th seemed to further confirm that the KGB was ultimately responsible for the murder attempt.

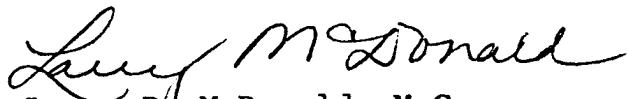
Mr. Kalb further revealed that the Central Intelligence Agency has asked American newsmen, as well as Italian authorities, to halt their investigation into the KGB connection. He said the apparent reason for the request is United States concern over the international repercussions that would result, particularly, since Soviet dictator Yuri Andropov was head of the KGB at the time of the assassination attempt.

In view of Mr. Kalb's well-documented reports, one must ask whether a deliberate attempt is being made at the highest levels of our government to suppress the KGB's involvement in the assassination attempt in an effort to preserve arms control talks, trade and nonexistent "detente".

Therefore, I respectfully must ask whether the CIA is involved in any manner in the effort to prevent newsmen and Italian authorities from a thorough investigation into the KGB connection and, if so, who gave the order for such a coverup?

If the United States is to continue as the leader of the Free World and as a moral example, reports of such wrongdoing must be cleared up immediately.

Sincerely,


Larry P. McDonald, M.C.

LPM/tbaw

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